



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 08, 2008

## ***Electricity***

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### **NRG's 864 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut by December 6**

Reuters, 9:14 December 8, 2008

### **Luminant's 565 MW Monticello Coal-fired Unit 3 in Texas Shut by December 6**

Reuters, 9:14 December 8, 2008

### **Luminant's 750 MW Martin Lake 1 Coal-fired Unit in Texas Shut by December 8**

Reuters, 9:46 December 8, 2008

### **Complete's 259 MW La Paloma Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Shut by December 7**

Reuters, 9:14 December 8, 2008

### **Calpine's 525 MW Sutter Power Plant Aggregate Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by December 6**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit experienced an unplanned outage by December 6.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812061515.html>

### **Exelon's 1,154 MW Braidwood Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 88 Percent by December 7**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 100 percent on the morning of December 6.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **Calpine's 525 MW Sutter Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by December 7**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812071515.html>

### **AES's 332 MW Alamos Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by December 5**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812051515.html>

### **Update: AmerGen's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by December 7**

The unit was shut on November 28 when one of the two main transformers failed and had to be replaced. According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 20 percent on the morning of December 6.

Information also derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Reuters, 07:43 December 8, 2008

### **AmerGen's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuke Unit in Illinois Ramped Up to 88 Percent by December 8**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 70 percent on the morning of December 7.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuke Unit 2 in Ohio at Full Power by December 8**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 90 percent on the morning of December 7.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuke Unit 1 in Louisiana at Full Power December 7**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 68 percent on the morning of December 6.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **Exelon's 850 MW Dresden Nuke Unit 3 in Illinois Ramped Up to 98 Percent by December 7**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 67 percent on the morning of December 6.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **Update: Florida Power's 834 MW Crystal River Nuke Unit 3 in Florida at Full Power by December 8**

The unit was reduced on December 5 so short work could be performed on a feed water pump. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported the unit was operating at 50 percent on the morning of December 7.

Information also derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Reuters, 07:55 December 8, 2008

### **PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuke Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 94 Percent by December 8**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 80 percent on the morning of December 7.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuke Unit 2 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by December 8**

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 63 percent on the morning of December 7.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

### **DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory Selects Ventyx, EnerNex and Midwest ISO to Conduct Landmark Eastern Interconnection Wind Integration Study**

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory announced December 8 it has selected Ventyx, EnerNex Corporation and the Midwest ISO to conduct a landmark study to serve as a comprehensive regional assessment of energy supply in the Eastern United States. The study will evaluate the operational impacts on the power system associated with increasing wind capacity in the region to 20 percent and 30 percent of retail electric energy sales by 2024.

<http://www1.ventyx.com/news/2008/12-08-08-enernex-miso.asp>

### **Update: OPG's 490 MW Coal-fired Nanticoke Unit 4, Unit 7, Unit 8 in Ontario Return to Service December 8**

Units 4 and 7 were shut by December 1, while Unit 8 was shut on November 23.  
Reuters, 08:51 December 8, 2008

### **Grays Harbor Ocean Energy Files with FERC for Permits to Develop Wave Energy Sites Off Coastline in Six States**

The company is seeking to build seven wave energy harnessing sites each covering 100 square miles in federal waters off the shores of California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Rhode Island. Even though the application is for wave energy, the long-term plan is to integrate wind turbines on the wave energy platforms to boost output to 1,000 MW capacity or more at each site that is developed. The company's rough model estimates the wind turbines capacity at each site will be about ten times greater than the wave energy capacity. If the wind and wave energy system is built at all seven sites, the cost would be about \$4 billion per site or \$28 billion which would make it the largest renewable energy project in the nation.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/politics/sns-ap-wave-energy-proposals.0.59216.story>

For more detailed information on the plans see the company website at: <http://graysharboreoceanenergy.com/>

### **Update: Arkansas Pollution Control and Ecology Commission Approves Swepeco's Request to Continue Construction on 600 MW Turk Coal-fired Power Plant in Arkansas**

The commission approved Swepeco's request to allow construction work to continue on the coal-fired plant as it considers an appeal of the project's air permit.

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6042244.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

### **Interest in Hydrokinetic Power Development on the Upswing for Mississippi and Missouri Rivers**

Free Flow Power Corp. has received a preliminary permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to build underwater turbines to harness the energy of the Mississippi River. The company has identified 55 turbine sites on the Mississippi River between St. Louis and the Gulf of Mexico capable of generating 1,600 MW. Another firm, Hydro Green Energy has also proposed installation of turbines on the Mississippi River, while Free Flow has requested preliminary permits from the FERC to study 25 regions along the Missouri River for the feasibility of producing electricity.

<http://www.sunherald.com/306/story/998604.html>

[http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking\\_news/story/926584.html](http://www.kansascity.com/news/breaking_news/story/926584.html)

### **EPCOR/TransAlta's 450 MW Genesee Coal-fired Unit 3 in Alberta Shut by December 7**

Reuters, 9:46 December 8, 2008

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Portion of BP's Refined Products River Rouge Pipeline in Michigan Damaged by Car Crash, December 5**

On the afternoon of December 5, a portion of BP's River Rouge pipeline in Michigan was damaged after being struck by a vehicle, in an accident that resulted in the death of the driver. The accident also caused a fire and shutdown of highway M-86. BP officials stated that there was no evidence of any significant spill and indicated the company does not expect any significant supply disruptions as a result. The River Rouge Pipeline carries refined products between BP's Whiting, Indiana refinery and the River Rouge Terminal in Michigan.

<http://www.sturgisjournal.com/news/x596334956/Pipeline-valve-fixed>

### **Shell Reports Damage on its Crude Oil Pipeline near Bakersfield, California December 8**

According to a filing with state regulators, Shell reported its crude-oil pipeline near Bakersfield, California, was cracked after being struck yesterday by a city contractor.

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/663ece6971bfa3e888257518007776af?OpenDocument>

Bloomberg News, 09:01 December 8, 2008

## **Unidentified Unit Shutdown at Valero's 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 5**

Valero told state regulators in an emissions filing that product was found from a leaking line and flaring was reported due to unit shutdown. At the time of the report, operations were attempting to isolate the line.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117394>

## **Valero Reports Outage of its 32,000 b/d Gas-Oil Hydrotreater at 289,000 Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 5**

Valero reported the outage of its hydrotreater was shut due to a snag, but the shutdown was not seen as lengthy. Reuters, 16:25 December 5, 2008

## **Power Interruption Reported at Valero's 140,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery on December 5, Output not Affected**

According to a filing with state regulators, electricity was disrupted to Complex 3 for about 35 minutes December 5 and resulted in emissions from an acid gas flare. A company representative said the incident will have no impact on production.

Bloomberg News, 16:29 December 5, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117389>

## **Update: Valero Restarts Hydrocracker Unit at its 140,000 B/D Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 8**

The unit was shut December 2.

Dow Jones Newswire, 10:58 December 8, 2008

## **Heater Upset Forces BP to Shut RHU Train at its 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery December 5**

According to a filing with state regulators, BP shut down the residual hydrotreater 300 train at its Texas City, Texas refinery on Friday after a heater upset caused flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117420>

## **Refiners Rush to Store Cheap Crude**

The price for prompt month crude oil compared with its price further in the future is causing energy companies to fill their tanks. Usually inventories of crude are kept to a minimum at year-end for tax purposes. Energy companies are utilizing as many VLCCs (very large crude carriers) as possible to store additional crude oil offshore in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/ousiv/idUSTRE4B774N20081208>

## **Update: Fos-Lavera, France Oil Port Workers Continue Strikes**

Port workers at France's largest oil hub of Fos-Lavera near Marseille are holding 24-hour strikes to protest port reform instituted earlier this year, forcing refiners to cut their output. Fos-Lavera port supplies crude to six refineries in France with an output capacity of 800,000 b/d.

<http://www.forbes.com/afxnews/limited/feeds/afx/2008/12/08/afx5793643.html>

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## **Natural Gas**

### **Update: FERC Releases Final Environmental Impact Statement for AES's Proposed Sparrows Point LNG Terminal to be Located in Maryland**

On December 5, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its final environmental impact statement for AES's proposed 1.5 Bcf/d LNG facility to be located in Baltimore County, Maryland, stating the terminal "would have mostly limited adverse environmental impacts."

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6042122.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/lng/enviro/eis/2008/12-05-08-eis.asp>

## Alaska Formally Awards TransCanada License on December 5 for Major Natural Gas - Pipeline to Ship Gas from Alaska's North Slope into North American Markets

<http://www.xe.com/news/Fri%20Dec%2005%2019:35:00%20EST%202008/115649.htm?categoryId=4&currentPage=1>

## FERC Approves Millennium Pipeline Contingency Plan

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index, December 08, 2008 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

## Update: Credit Crisis May Delay Start-Up of Gazprom's Shtokman Gas Field Project

The chief executive of Shtokman development told the press that liquidity in the financial market and the possibilities of attracting credit determine the start of the project. The Shtokman gas field was discovered in 1998 and is estimated to hold 130.6 Tcf/d of natural gas.

[http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200812081210DOWJONESDJONLINE000411\\_FORTUNE5.htm](http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200812081210DOWJONESDJONLINE000411_FORTUNE5.htm)

## Other News

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### Update: Ethanol Plants Mothballed during Economic Turmoil

Plans have recently been announced to idle the following ethanol production facilities due to a combination of low liquidity, locked-in, high-priced corn contracts, and sharp decreases in ethanol prices:

- VeraSun's 80 MMgal/yr Central City, Nebraska ethanol plant idled through January 15
- VeraSun's 100 MMgal/yr Ord, Nebraska ethanol plant idled through January 15
- VeraSun's 50 MMgal/yr Woodbury, Michigan ethanol plant idled indefinitely
- Altra's 60 MMgal/yr Coshocton, Ohio ethanol plant idled through January
- Pine Lake Corn Processors' 30 MMgal/yr Steamboat Rock, Iowa idled indefinitely

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30300/>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30301/>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30298/>

<http://www.pinelakecorn.com/>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30334/>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 8, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	43.68	50.12	87.63
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	5.99	6.43	7.29

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### 12,845 BC Hydro Customers Lose Power in Unplanned Outage December 7

<http://www.owensoundsuntimes.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1334981>

### Tree Limb on Power Lines Results in 90-minute Loss of Power to 10,000 Snohomish PUD Customers December 6

[http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW\\_120608WAB\\_snoco\\_power\\_out\\_KS.39d63748.html](http://www.king5.com/localnews/stories/NW_120608WAB_snoco_power_out_KS.39d63748.html)

**Update: OPEC Oil Exports (Excluding Angola and Ecuador) Down 213,000 b/d Four Weeks Ending November 23**

Reuters, 10:40 December 8, 2008

**Update: Nigeria's Dept. of Petroleum Resources Says Unrest in Niger Delta Results in 397,697 b/d of Lost Crude Oil Output**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=70361](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=70361)

**Welder Killed While Repairing Oil Tanker Truck**

**Fumes from Tank Ignite from Welding Torch and Truck Explodes**

<http://cbs4.com/local/Oil.Fire.Explosion.2.880159.html>

**RHU 300 Train Shutdown after Heater Upset, Causes Flaring for Two Hours at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117420>

**Chesapeake Energy to cut 2009-2010 spending by \$5.1 billion**

**Leasehold/Property Acquisition and Drilling Budgets Cut by 78 and 31 Percent Respectively**

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/8220979.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

**Plan to Make Ohio Route 71 a Biomethane Corridor**

**Natural Gas Created from Methane Gas at Landfills to Power Vehicles along Highway**

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

**Critics of Proposed Radioactive Waste Repository in Ontario, Canada Say Safety Research Inadequate**

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/business/breakingnews/35681304.html>

**AGI No. 1 and No. 2 Temporarily Shutdown at Tilden Gas Plant in Tilden, Texas Due to High Discharge Pressure December 6**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117423>

## **Links**

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***This Week in Petroleum*** from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

***Weekly Petroleum Status Report*** from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

***Natural Gas Weekly Update*** from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

## ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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